



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Children and Family Services

At its meeting held July 8, 2003, the Board took the following action:

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The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisors Molina and Burke:

"The County of Los Angeles (the County) contracts with Foster Family Agencies (FFAs) for the placement of children who are the victims of abuse and neglect and who require specialized services.

"Existing contracts between the County and 68 FFAs expire on August 31, 2003. Pursuant to State regulations, the current contracts may be extended to October 31, 2003 if an extension of time is necessary to complete a new bidding and contract negotiation process.

"Since September 2002, the County has been involved in protracted negotiations with FFA representatives. Resolution has not been reached with respect to several issues, such as the County's right to conduct a meaningful audit and the use of funds. During the negotiations, the parties tentatively agreed to engage in a process to establish a capacity to report on critical FFA outcomes that directly affect the safety, well-being and permanency of the child.

"It is essential that any contract between the County and an FFA contain a provision wherein the County has an absolute right to conduct reviews of the use of funds for possible fiscal abuse as it relates to quality of life issues for children placed in group homes and FFAs.

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“The existing contracts between the County and the FFAs require that, prior to requesting to discharge a child who has been placed with an FFA, the FFA and the Department of Children and Family Services conduct a case conference. It is essential that any new contract between the County and an FFA contain a provision wherein a case conference is conducted to ensure that all reasonable efforts are made to stabilize a child’s placement and to determine whether any additional services may be provided to the child, without resorting to an unnecessary and traumatizing replacement of a child from an FFA home.”

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Molina, seconded by Supervisor Burke, unanimously carried, the Director of Children and Family Services was instructed to:

1. Include the following provisions in any contract with Foster Family Agencies (FFA); and
 - An absolute right of the County to conduct reviews of the use of funds for possible fiscal abuse as it relates to quality of life issues for children placed in group homes and FFAs;
 - Ensure that all reasonable efforts are made to stabilize a child's placement and to determine whether any additional services may be provided to the child, without resorting to an unnecessary and traumatizing replacement of a child from an FFA home; and
 - Committing the FFA to participate in the collection and reporting of outcome data related to child safety, well being and permanency; and
2. Report back to the Board by July 22, 2003 as to whether the FFAs will accept the terms of a new contract and, if in the event the FFAs do not accept the terms, on the feasibility of releasing a Request For Proposals and Request For Statement of Qualifications to procure FFA services now or in the future, and whether such an approach would enable the County to increase its quality of service to society's most needy children.

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Each Supervisor

Chief Administrative Officer

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